



Thick black smoke pours from a vent in the Wilberg Mine last month. Underground fire and explosions killed 27 men.



Unidentified rescue worker describes attempt to enter Wilberg Mine as "like going down into Hell."

Things were going well that spring in the Carbon County mining community. Orders were coming in at a brisk rate and the mine was operating at capacity. Nearly 400 men went into the mine to work on that May Day morning.

At 10:28 a.m., an explosion ripped through the mine. A man standing at the mine entrance with his horse was blown 600 feet across the canyon by the blast but survived. His horse was killed. Others outside the mine were injured by flying timbers.

Rescue teams were hastily organized and began removing the bodies as quickly as they could safely enter the tunnel. Word spread through the town and families gathered at the portal and in the buildings used as morgues. All were hoping their menfolk would come out alive but hopes fell as body after mangled body was carried out.

Scarcely a household in the community was not affected by the tragedy. Fathers and sons died together. Some 20 of the victims were lads as young as 14 years who worked as couplers and trap boys. Some discrepancies arose in the count of the dead but the final tally arrived at by company and state officials was 200.

Bill Major Eugenia Chapman

Looking for some new recipes to add to your files? Well, why not be a little more creative and add a few cleaning mixtures? Here are some of our favorites:

Carpet and Fingerprints:

For washing off dirt and fingerprints on woodwork, walls and draperies:

2 tablespoons non-sudsy ammonia
1 teaspoon liquid dish soap

1 pint rubbing alcohol

Mix together in a gallon bottle and fill the remaining space with water. For convenience always keep some in a spray bottle. Just spray on and wipe

Carpet Shampoo:

1 cup ammonia

1 cup cleaning solvent (Thoro or Pine-Sol)

1 gallon warm water

Combine shampoo ingredients in a bucket and scrub one section of carpet at a time (use brush on shag).

Carpet Rinse:

1 cup white vinegar

1 gallon warm water

Old bath towels

Rinse the carpet with vinegar solution and dry with towels before going on to the next section.

Clogged Drains:

For drains clogged with grease or soap residue (this will not remove really tight clogs or drains stopped up with hair), pour down the drain:

1 cup salt

1 cup baking soda

1 cup vinegar

Follow this with 2 quarts of boiling water.

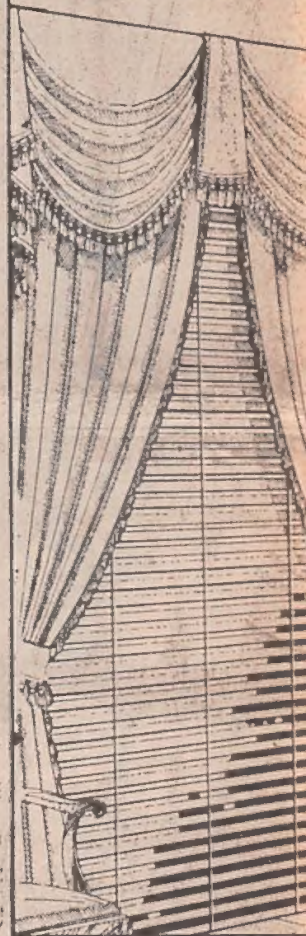
clothes to the cleaners, picks up Sarah at school and drops her at home before she goes to work at 3 p.m.

Bill arrives home at 5 unless he has cleaning to pick up, serves dinner, does dishes and takes the clothes out of the dryer, folds them and puts another load into the washer. He watches a little TV and is asleep when Debbie arrives home.

In the six years of marriage, they have spent a total of 38 days together including Christmas, New Year's, a snowstorm in 1981, and 20 minutes when they were stalled in traffic in different cars side by side.

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**Treasure
Memories**

Perhaps the family hardest hit by the disaster was that of Abe Louma, 70, and his wife, 65. The couple had come to America from Finland, just three months before at the urging of their seven sons and three grandsons. All had work in the mine and wanted their aging parents to be with them and enjoy their prosperity. After the explosion, only one son was left alive.

Suddenly, the community had 205 widows and 270 fatherless children. The Pleasant Valley Coal Co. provided a suit of burial clothes for each of the dead men and brought 125 caskets from Salt Lake City. Another 75 caskets had to be brought from Denver.

Two burial services were held at Scofield. One for 61 Finnish miners was conducted by a Lutheran minister from Rock Springs, Wyo. Four General Authorities of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints attended the second service for those who were members of that church. The leaders were Elders Heber J. Grant, George Teasdale and Reed Smoot of the Council of the Twelve and President Seymour B. Young of the First Council of the Seventy. A number of the bodies were taken to various Utah towns for burial.

No government assistance was available to the survivors nor was any insurance or pension program in effect to help them. The company store forgave the \$8,000 debt the miners had accumulated in April, and paid each family an extra \$500 each.

The rest was up to private charity. Donations of money totaling \$216,289.81 came in from all parts of the country. Three rail cars carried donated flowers for the funerals and clothing was collected to be given to the children. Salt Lake bakeries sent a gift of 3,000 loaves of bread. Catholic Bishop Lawrence
See MINERS on C-3



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